

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - April 2, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today the unsealing of three indictments charging a total of 24 individuals with conspiracy to import and distribute cocaine and marijuana, conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, and multiple counts of laundering the proceeds of those drug sales. These indictments were the culmination of a two-year investigation of the drug trafficking and money laundering activities of several overlapping drug distribution “cells” located in San Diego County, Ventura County, Riverside County, Hawaii, Canada, and elsewhere. In connection with this investigation, federal and state search warrants were executed in the San Diego area in the early morning hours of April 1, 2004. Additional search warrants were executed in Riverside County, and on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. During the course of this investigation, a total of six kilograms of cocaine, two pounds of methamphetamine, and approximately 30 pounds of high-grade “B.C. Bud” marijuana were seized. Agents have also seized approximately \$747,000 in suspected drug proceeds and 20 weapons, including nine AK47 assault rifles.

This long-term investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the North County Regional Gang Task Force, the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Oceanside Police Department, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, United States Postal Inspectors, Escondido Police Department, Carlsbad Police Department, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, U.S. Marshals Service, and San Diego County Probation, uncovered a poly-drug-trafficking network that distributed drugs locally in San Diego County, and shipped drugs to the Hawaiian Islands and Singapore. Twenty-two individuals were arrested in San Diego County, and another eight were arrested in Hawaii. One of the central figures indicted in this case, Baron M A Suarez-Rothschild, is currently in custody in Singapore on related charges. Prosecutors plan to seek extradition of this individual to the United States.

United States Attorney Lam stated, "The arrests today have significantly impacted the flow of cocaine, methamphetamine, and high-grade marijuana in San Diego County." Ms. Lam praised the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) for the coordinated team effort in the culmination of this investigation.

Michael S. Vigil, Special Agent in Charge of the DEA in San Diego said, "The DEA in association with its coalition partners continues to aggressively investigate international drug-trafficking organizations, such as the one that we have eliminated today."

Daniel Dzwilewski, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in San Diego said, "Today's arrests and search warrants were the culmination of a twenty-four-month long investigation by the DEA, North County Regional Gang Task Force, IRS, and the FBI. The investigation targeted criminal enterprises responsible for the distribution of high grade methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana, as well as money laundering activities. The investigation serves as a prime example of law enforcement agencies pooling their resources and expertise to successfully dismantle a criminal enterprise responsible for placing dangerous and illegal drugs on our streets."

Denise L. Rubin, Special Agent in Charge of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division in San Diego stated, "IRS Criminal Investigation is part of a very formidable team of law enforcement agencies whose

mission is to disrupt and dismantle these drug trafficking and money laundering operations. IRS CID plays a unique role in federal law enforcement's counter-drug effort in that we target the profits and financial gains of narcotics traffickers which compromise a significant portion of the untaxed underground economy."

The defendants arrested in San Diego are expected to be arraigned on the indictments today at 10:30 a.m. before Magistrate Judge James F. Stiven.

## **DEFENDANTS**

**Jose Omar ESTOLANO**  
**Baron M A SUAREZ-ROTHSCHILD**  
**Roberto VERBER-COTA**  
**Kelley Walter SCHLAGER**  
**Rayma FAALEALEA**  
**Sefo FAALEALEA**  
**Tyler Morgan GEIS**  
**Steven POTTS**  
**Victor NEYRA-MATA**  
**Robert Newton LINDER**  
**Mark Steve BOYD**  
**Luz JUAREGUI**  
**Todd TAKATA**  
**Brien Richard ORSBURN**  
**Brent WEBER**  
**Kimberly DEVERAUX**  
**Douglas SECOR**  
**Edward Dean HOHNER**  
**Roger ELLINGSON**  
**James Bruce ROUSE**  
**Nicholas MENDOZA**  
**Chad ADAMS**  
**Jarrett CUFF**  
**Jeffrey RANDALL**

## **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

### **Criminal Case No. 04 CR 0863 JM**

Defendants: 8 [Jose Omar ESTOLANO, Baron M A SUAREZ-ROTHSCHILD, Roberto VERBER-COTA, Kelley Walter SCHLAGER, Rayma FAALEALEA, Sefo FAALEALEA Tyler Morgan GEIS, Steven POTTS]

Counts: Four

Violations: Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine [21 U.S.C. §§ 846 and 841(a)(1)]  
Distribution of Methamphetamine [21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)]  
Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute [21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)]  
Distribution in or Near a School [21 U.S.C. § 860]  
Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments [18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(h) and 1956(a)(1)(B)(i)]  
Aiding and Abetting [18 U.S.C. § 2]

### **Criminal Case No. 04 CR 0860 JM**

Defendants: 12 [Victor NEYRA-MATA, Baron M A SUAREZ-ROTHSCHILD, Robert Newton LINDER, Mark Steve BOYD, Luz JUAREGUI, Rayma FAALEALEA, Todd TAKATA, Brien Richard ORSBURN, Brent WEBER, Douglas SECOR, Tyler Morgan GEIS, Kimberly DEVERAUX]

Counts: 7

Violations: Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine [21 U.S.C. §§ 846 and 841(a)(1)]  
Distribute of Cocaine [21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)]  
Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute [21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)]  
Aiding and Abetting [18 U.S.C. § 2]  
Conspiracy to Launder Money to Conceal Proceeds of Illegal Activity [18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(h) and (a)(1)(B)(i)]

### **Criminal Case No. 04 CR 0862 JM**

Defendants: 7 [Edward Dean HOHNER, Roger ELLINGSON, James Bruce ROUSE, Nicholas MENDOZA, Chad ADAMS, Jarrett CUFF, Jeffrey RANDALL]

Counts: 11

Violations: Conspiracy to Distribute Marijuana [21 U.S.C. §§ 846 and 841(a)(1)]  
Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments [18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(h) and 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and (B)(i)]  
Laundering of Monetary Instruments [18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(ii)]  
Engaging in Monetary Transaction in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity [18 U.S.C. § 1957]  
Aiding and Abetting [18 U.S.C. § 2]  
Criminal Forfeiture [18 U.S.C. § 982]

## **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Drug Enforcement Administration  
North County Regional Gang Task Force  
Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Oceanside Police Department  
San Diego County Sheriff's Department  
United States Postal Inspectors  
Escondido Police Department  
Carlsbad Police Department  
Naval Criminal Investigative Service  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement  
U.S. Marshals Service  
San Diego County Probation

**An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**